



## NEWS RELEASE

# CONGRESSMAN CHRIS CANNON

UTAH'S 3RD DISTRICT

## Cannon Introduces Bill For Veterans To Keep War Souvenirs

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Contact: Meghan Riding  
Office: 202-225-7751  
Cell: 703-400-4983

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressmen Chris Cannon (R-UT) and Jim Gibbons (R-NV) introduced a bill to allow veterans to keep firearms that were brought home as souvenirs from wars. Without the *Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2002*, many veterans, including Utah's 134,102 veterans, could potentially face prison and fines for possessing war trophy machine guns they brought back from overseas that they have not registered with the Treasury Department.

"When veterans returned home from fighting overseas, they were concerned about reuniting with family and finishing school, not registering their firearms," Cannon said. "Now the machine guns they brought back are illegal and cannot be registered and veterans or their family members are required to surrender them to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms for destruction. In many cases these war relic firearms are worth thousands of dollars. But in all cases they are meaningful souvenirs for our nation's veterans."

"Our veterans fought to secure freedom and preserve our national security," Gibbons said. "When they returned home they focused on reuniting with their family, securing an education, and building a home--not on wading through the burdensome bureaucracy associated with registering a firearm. Providing these heroes with an opportunity to register their war relics is the fair answer to this unfortunate situation."

When returning from war overseas, many veterans believed they were permitted to bring these machine guns home without realizing the need to register them. If this legislation is enacted, veterans will have a 90-day period in which to register their firearms. To qualify, firearms must have been acquired before October 31, 1968 by a member of the Armed Forces while stationed outside the continental United States. This legislation will also allow family members to register firearms inherited from veterans.

"Without this legislation we are punishing veterans who diligently served our great nation," Cannon said. "We should not deny them a cherished souvenir because of a misunderstood law. The memories and mementoes of our veterans' service to our nation is one of America's greatest treasures."

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